

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for manufacturing a refastenable absorbent garment comprising:

moving a continuous body panel web in a machine direction;

successively fixedly securing a plurality of discrete fastener pieces to said body panel web, wherein said plurality of fastener pieces are spaced along said machine direction, and wherein each of said fastener pieces comprises a first and second end spaced along said machine direction; and

successively cutting said body panel web and each of said fastener pieces along a cross direction at a location between said first and second ends of each of said fastener pieces and thereby forming a plurality of discrete body panels each comprising opposite side edges and a plurality of pairs of fastener members, wherein said fastener members in each of said pairs of fastener members are fixedly secured to one of said plurality of said body panels and a next successive body panel and wherein each of said plurality of body panels forms part of and is associated with a corresponding individual refastenable absorbent garment.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein each of said plurality of fastener pieces comprises a refastenable portion formed proximate at least both of said first and second ends thereof.

3. The method of claim 2 further comprising releasably engaging said body panel web with said refastenable portions of each of said plurality of said fastener pieces.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein said successively cutting said body panel web and each of said fastener pieces along said cross direction at said location between said first and second ends of said fastener pieces comprises successively cutting said body panel web at a plurality of first locations, and further comprising successively cutting said body panel web along said cross

direction at plurality of second locations between each of said releasable engagements of said body panel web with said refastenable portions of said fastener pieces and each of said fixed securements of said body panel web with said fastener pieces.

5 5. The method of claim 4 wherein said successively cutting said body panel web at said second locations comprises successively cutting said body panel web at said second locations prior to said fixedly securing said plurality of fastener pieces to said body panel web.

10 6. The method of claim 4 wherein said successive cutting of said body panel web at said second locations comprises successively perforating said body panel web at said second locations.

15 7. The method of claim 6 wherein said body panel web comprises a front body panel web.

20 8. The method of claim 2 wherein said plurality of fastener pieces each comprise a carrier member supporting said refastenable portion.

 9. The method of claim 8 wherein at least a portion of said carrier member is elasticized.

25 10. The method of claim 8 wherein said each of said carrier members has a lateral width, and further comprising altering said width of said carrier members, wherein said carrier members comprise a first group of carrier members having a first width and a second group of carrier members having a second width, wherein said first width is greater than said second width.

30 11. The method of claim 2 wherein said refastenable portion comprises a hook material.

12. The method of claim 2 wherein said fastener pieces each comprise a first and second side, wherein said first side is fixedly secured to said body panel web and wherein said second side comprises said refastenable portion, wherein said refastenable portion faces away from said body panel web.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein an entirety of said first side is fixedly secured to said body panel web.

14. The method of claim 2 wherein said fastener pieces each comprise a first and second side, wherein said first side faces and comprises a portion that is fixedly secured to said body panel web and wherein said first side further comprises said refastenable portion.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein said body panel web comprises a front body panel web and further comprising moving a second body panel web in said machine direction.

16. The method of claim 1 wherein said body panel web comprises a front body panel web.

17. The method of claim 1 wherein said body panel web comprises a first body panel web and further comprising moving a second continuous body panel web and a plurality of discrete crotch portions in said machine direction, wherein said plurality of crotch portions are spaced along said machine direction and extend between said continuous first and second body panel webs.

18. The method of claim 17 further comprising folding said crotch portion, wherein said continuous first and second body panel webs face each other.

19. The method of claim 18 further comprising successively attaching said first and second body panel webs at a plurality of cross direction attachment locations spaced along said machine direction and thereby forming a plurality of cross direction side seams spaced along said machine direction.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein said successively attaching said first and second body panel webs along said cross direction and said successively fixedly securing said plurality of fastener pieces to said first body panel web are performed simultaneously.

21. The method of claim 19 wherein said successively cutting said body panel web and each of said fastener pieces along said cross direction comprises successively cutting said first and second body panel webs and each of said fastener pieces along said cross direction at said side seams.

22. The method of claim 17 further comprising successively fixedly securing a plurality of discrete extension panels to said second body panel web at an attachment location, and successively cutting said second body panel web and said discrete extension panels along said cross direction at said attachment location and thereby forming a plurality of discrete second body panels each comprising opposite side edges and a plurality of extension members each secured to said second body panel along one of said opposite side edges.

23. The method of claim 1 wherein said successively cutting said body panel web and each of said fastener pieces along said cross direction comprises making a serpentine cut along said cross direction.

24. A method for manufacturing a refastenable absorbent garment comprising:

moving a body panel web in a machine direction;

successively applying a plurality of discrete fastener pieces to said body panel web, wherein said fastener pieces are spaced along said machine direction, and wherein each of said plurality of fastener pieces comprises a first and second end spaced along said machine direction and a refastenable portion formed proximate at least both of said first and second ends;

releasably engaging said body panel web with said refastenable portions of each of said plurality of said discrete fastener pieces;

fixedly securing each of said plurality of said discrete fastener pieces to said body panel web at an attachment location between said refastenable portions formed proximate said at least both of said first and second ends; and

successively cutting said body panel web and each of said fastener pieces along a cross direction at said attachment location and thereby forming a plurality of discrete body panels each comprising opposite side edges and a plurality of pairs of fastener members each comprising a first end fixedly secured to one of said body panels adjacent one of said opposite side edges and a second end comprising said refastenable portion releasably engaged with said one of said discrete body panels inboard of said one of said opposite side edges.

25. The method of claim 24 further comprising successively perforating said body panel web along said cross direction at plurality of breakable locations between each of said releasable engagements of said body panel web with said refastenable portions of said fastener pieces and each of said attachment locations of said body panel web with said fastener pieces.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein said successively perforating said body panel web at said breakable locations comprises successively perforating said body panel web at said breakable locations prior to said fixedly securing said plurality of fastener pieces to said body panel web.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein said body panel web comprises a front body panel web.

28. The method of claim 24 wherein said fastener pieces each comprise a carrier member supporting said refastenable portion.

5 29. The method of claim 28 wherein at least a portion of said carrier member is elasticized.

10 30. The method of claim 28 wherein said each of said carrier members has a lateral width, and further comprising altering said width of said carrier members, wherein said carrier members comprise a first group of carrier members having a first width and a second group of carrier members having a second width, wherein said first width is greater than said second width.

15 31. The method of claim 24 wherein said refastenable portion comprises a hook material.

20 32. The method of claim 24 wherein said fastener pieces each comprise a first and second side, wherein said first side faces and comprises a portion that is fixedly secured to said body panel web and wherein said first side further comprises said refastenable portion.

25 33. The method of claim 24 wherein said body panel web comprises a first body panel web and further comprising moving a second continuous body panel web and a plurality of discrete crotch portions spaced along said machine direction and extending between said continuous first and second body panel webs in said machine direction.

30 34. The method of claim 33 further comprising folding said crotch portion, wherein said continuous first and second body panel webs face each other.

35. The method of claim 34 wherein said attachment location is a first location and further comprising successively attaching said first and second body panel webs at a second cross direction attachment location and thereby forming a plurality of cross direction side seams spaced along said machine direction.

36. The method of claim 35 wherein said successively attaching said first and second body panel webs at said second attachment location and said successively fixedly securing said plurality of fastener pieces to said first body panel web at said first attachment location are performed simultaneously, and wherein said first and second attachment locations are coextensive.

37. The method of claim 35 wherein said successively cutting said first body panel web and each of said fastener pieces along said cross direction comprises successively cutting said first and second body panel webs and each of said fastener pieces along said cross direction at said side seams.

38. The method of claim 33 wherein said attachment location is a first attachment location and further comprising successively fixedly securing a plurality of discrete extension panels to said second body panel web at a plurality of second attachment locations, and successively cutting said second body panel web and said discrete extension panels at said second attachment locations and thereby forming a plurality of discrete second body panels each comprising opposite side edges and a plurality of extension members each secured to said second body panel along one of said opposite side edges.

39. The method of claim 24 wherein said successively cutting said body panel web and each of said fastener pieces at said attachment location comprises making a serpentine cut along said cross direction.

40. A refastenable absorbent garment comprising:

a first body panel having first and second opposite side edges;
a second body panel having first and second opposite side edges;
a crotch portion extending between said first and second body
panels;

5 at least a first and second fastener member fixedly secured to and
extending outboard from said first and second opposite side edges of said first
body panel respectively, wherein each of said first and second fastener members
comprises a refastenable portion; and

10 a first and second extension member fixedly secured to and
extending outboard from said first and second opposite side edges of said second
body panel respectively, wherein said refastenable portion of said first fastener
member releasably engages said first extension member and wherein said
refastenable portion of said second fastener member releasably engages said
15 second extension member.

20 41. The invention of claim 40 wherein said refastenable portion
comprises a hook material.